H.C. Burleigh Papers

Jamieson

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John Peter's Narrative

Katie Eccles

in the early twenties of the present century.

1. Katie Eccles 3 masted schr rigged
repainted.

2. Warm cloudy day – gray skies water & boat.

3 10 mi out in lake – 3/4 hr coming in

4 Crew beached her & got off. 5 mins. or less.

5 Bay of Quinte boat – otherwise not known.

6. Went down not much over quarter mile from shore.

7. A. Low in water
(B) Bare spars –
C South wind (did not turn west, but east in the wind)

8. Hatches, etc came ashore near McClellans.

9. Crew of about 7 men.

(On main shoal west of main Duck Isl are a number)

10 about 1925:

11. Wrecks
1 Katie Eccles
2 1/4 mi off Stella a truck Skilling Glenn.
3 Anchor just north of Battery Bar (abt 1 mi west of Bluff)
4. Anchor east of Pt Pleasant (abt 1/4 mi) (no let-go & rusted on net)
5. No. of Big Bar (carrying iron ore) (Sheboygan) (abt 1 mi No. of Bar)
6. Sarnadoc (1927) Betw. Timber Id & Pr. Ed. Co. (abt 5 mi North of Timber Id)
7. Two vessels off Simcoe (s of Simcoe) Pyle's tug & another.
8 Boat they found money on is at Edwin Keech's (so. of Deseronto (2 mi. south) on Adolphustown side.
Found money just a few yrs ago.
9. Wreck where goat light buoy is at Deseronto W & S of Deseronto – just east of Forester's Id.

Wm Jameson re ~~Katie Eccles~~

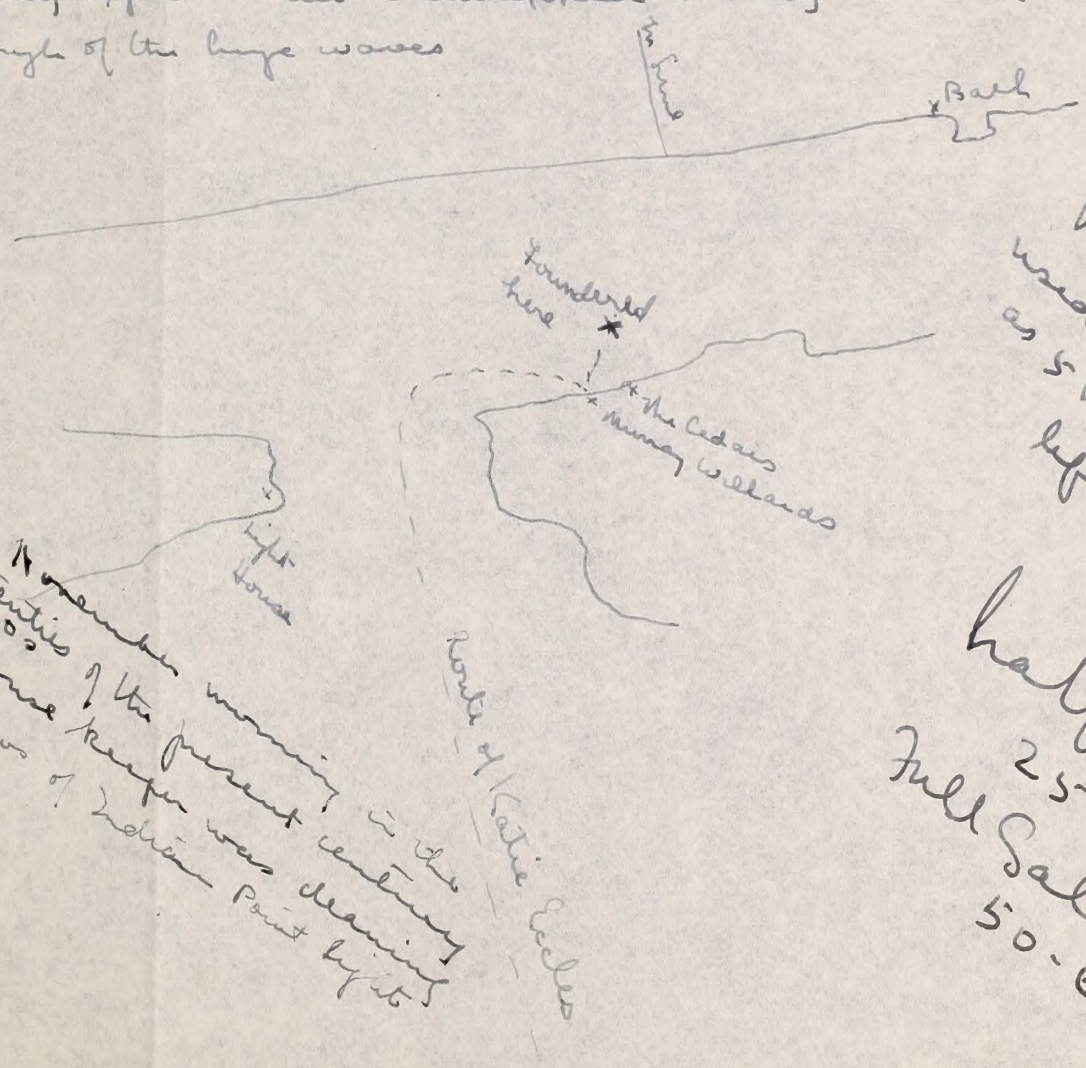
No lives were lost.

Fishermen know her last resting place as a spot to be shunned when dropping whitefish nets. A miscalculation can ruin a hundred dollars worth of nets if they become entangled in the superstructure of the Katie Eccles.

For years fishermen passing over the spot could see the broken masts & undulating ropes in the clear water on a sunny day.

no sails trimmed on her bare poles, not even a jib

They expected her to disappear at any moment in the trough of the huge waves



On that November morning in the early twenties 20s of the present century the lighthouse keeper was cleaning the windows of Indian Point lights

Vere Howard used car as much as 5 mi so of Tauli lifting nets.

half-gale 25 mi.
Full Gale 50-60 mi.

Chas. Laird.

No ~~Katie Eccles~~
Wm Jameson

In 1922 or 23 Laird was cleaning windows of Indian Point Light. It was late in season – November – and a (full) gale was blowing from the south. Presently he noted a schooner under bare poles about half way between Main Dunks & Upper Gap. She was heading for the latter opening – no jib on – rolling heavily and taking water fore & stern – hoping to reach the protected water in the lee of Amherst Island. She was heavily laden with coal from Oswego and deadships she was ~~[illegible]~~ only about a foot out of water. It was evident that she had sprung a seam & taking water in her hold. She appeared to be in distress as every wave broke over her stern leaving her decks awash. Breathlessly, Laird & a friend watched her approach, at times showing nothing but her bare masts & spars above the boiling seas. At last she entered the gap like a wounded stag & slowly responded to the helm by turning eastward. But she was even then not out of danger for the heavy roll that sped through the gap was increasing the damage she had suffered in her run for safety. As she ran down the Bay close to the Island shore still under bare poles she seemed to settle lower in the water. Whether by design or by the force of the wind she was driven ashore about a mile below the head of the Island. But the contact with land was only momentary for she careened off & drew away and drifting & wallowing in the heavy seas, settling more as she left the shore, she finally sank about 3/4 of a mile due north of The Cedars (Daniel Fowlers) in about 75 ft of water. She remained thus (with her cross trees awash) until the ice took. In the spring break up her masts & spars broke loose & were swept down the Bay. Hatches & loose paraphernalia from her deck were washed ashore along the beach near the Four Line

no ~~Katie Eccles~~
this was the Jamieson

5

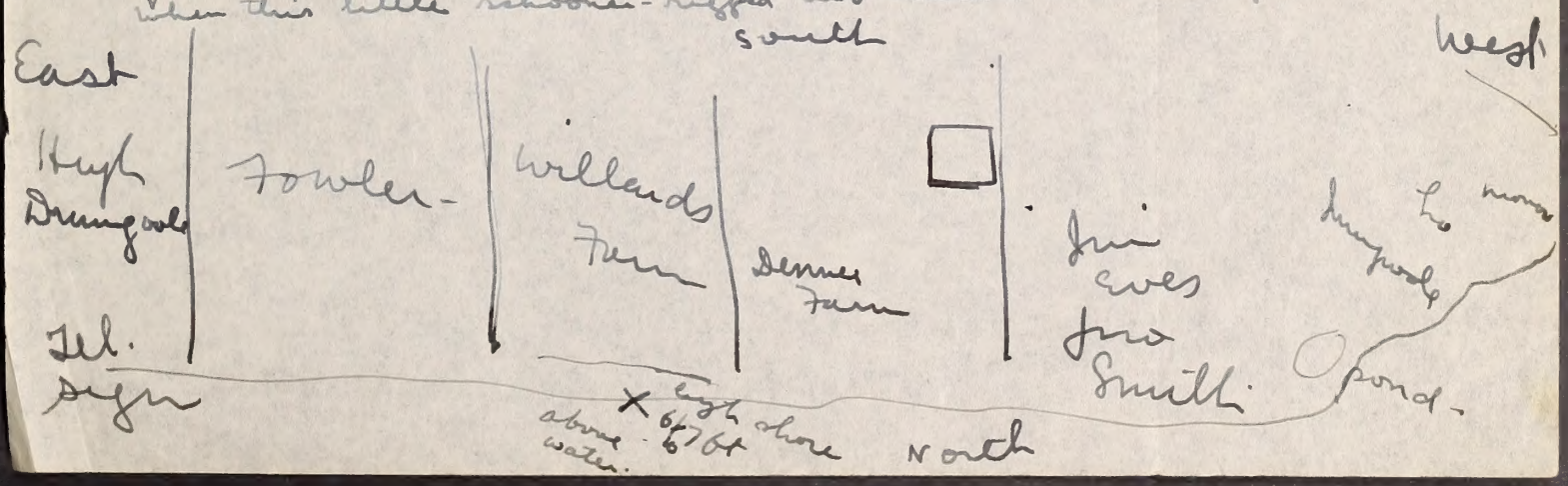
Queries

1. ~~Was~~ was she a ~~two~~ three master, schooner rigged?
2. When was she abandoned? After she hit shore
   or, Yes, as she hit shore
3. Was the day clear or cloudy? cloudy
4. How far from shore did she sink? 1/4 mile
5

40 ch to 1 inch
2640 ft = 1 inch
1/2 m = 1 inch

Ships (pleasure) vanish like the swallows before the first frost.

Islanders will tell you, indeed, so will the mainlanders, of the wreck of the "Katie Eccles." It was back in 1922, or was it 23 when this little schooner-rigged two-master met her fate



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